

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph beginning on page two of the specification starting with the word "Before", and also ending on page two of the specification, with the following replacement paragraph with markings to show all changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

Before the pipettes may be used to transfer liquid to and from the microplate wells, the tips ~~20~~30 must be loaded onto the pipettes. A robotic arm (not shown) typically delivers a rack 40 full of tips 30 to the loading area 42. The head then positions itself directly above the rack 40 with each pipette in alignment with one of the tips 30. The head 20 then moves downward to bring the pipettes into contact with the tips~~20~~30. Each tip ~~20~~30 is secured to a pipette with a friction-fit. Thus, the head must press (or be pulled) down with a substantial force to cause the tips to slide on to the ends of the pipettes. The sliding action of the polypropylene tips against the metal mandrels causes an electrostatic charge, i.e., triboelectricity, to develop on the exterior of the tips~~20~~30.